

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 10060 051406Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----123046 051410Z /41
O 051400Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7589

S E C R E T CAIRO 10060

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, ECON, EG
SUBJECT: REPORTED KAISOONI RESIGNATION

1. WE HEARD REPORT THIS MORNING FROM AMERICAN BUSINESSMAN THAT KAISOONI HAD RESIGNED. IN CHECKING, IT DEVELOPED THAT HE WAS NOT AT TODAY'S REGULARLY SCHEDULED CABINET MEETING. HIS OFFICE SIMPLY SAID HE WAS HOME ILL. IT DESCRIBED RESIGNATION STORY AS COMPLETELY BASELESS.

2. FONMIN KAMEL CONFIRMED TO AMBASSADOR THIS AFTERNOON THAT KAISOONI HAD INDEED SUBMITTED HIS RESIGNATION. HE THOUGHT, HOWEVER, THAT THE PRESIDENT AND PRIMIN ARE WORKING ON KAISOONI TO WITHDRAW IT, AND HE SEEMED REASONABLY CONFIDENT THAT KAISOONI WOULD REMAIN IN THE CABINET.

3. ASKED WHY KAISOONI HAD SUBMITTED RESIGNATION, KAMEL SAID POOR HEALTH HAD BEEN CITED IN RESIGNATION LETTER AS THE REASON FOR WANTING TO LEAVE. WHILE KAISOONI'S HEALTH HAS NOT BEEN GOOD, KAMEL THOUGHT THERE WERE OTHER REASONS AS WELL. FOR EXAMPLE, KAISOONI HAD FOUND RECENT SESSIONS WITH PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY ON PRICE RISES TRYING. HE HAD BEEN ESPECIALLY DISTURBED THAT SIXTY MEMBERS OF GOVT PARTY HAD RAISED QUESTIONS AND OPPOSED HIS EFFORT

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TO RAISE PRICES. ADDITIONALLY, KAMEL INDICATED, KAISOONI IS CURRENTLY AT LOGGERHEADS WITH GAMASY. WHILE KAMEL PROFESSED NOT TO KNOW DETAILS, GAMASY WAS FURIOUS THAT KAISOONI HAD IN RECENT STATEMENT TO PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY ATTRIBUTED EGYPT'S ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES TO HIGH DEFENSE EXPENDITURES (CAIRO 9773). GAMASY WAS ALSO CHARGING THAT KAISOONI HAD UTILIZED LARGE SUM OF MONEY RECENTLY RECEIVED

FROM KUWAIT (PRESUMABLY REPORTED RABAT PAYMENT, SEE CAIRO A-188, 12/5/77), WHICH GAMASY CONTENDS WAS INTENDED FOR MILITARY PURPOSES, TO PAY OUTSTANDING GOE DEBT OBLIGATIONS.

4. COMMENT: KAISSOUNI RESIGNATION, IF IT WERE TO TAKE PLACE, WOULD BE GREAT LOSS TO GOE'S IMAGE IN IMF AND IBRD. IT WOULD ALSO DELAY PACE OF NEEDED ECONOMIC REFORMS. HOPEFULLY, SADAT AND SALEM WILL BE ABLE TO PERSUADE HIM STAY ON. EILTS

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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